APPENDIX 3.5 Book Review of Judy Moody Gets Famous

Judy Moody Gets Famous

Have you ever had your picture in the paper? In *Judy Moody Gets Famous*, by Megan McDonald, we see just how far Judy will go to see her name in print. While Judy may be famous in her family for her many melodramatic moods, and famous in her third-grade class for getting white cards, she has never had her picture in the local newspaper. Judy doesn’t know what she’s missing until her classmate, Jessica Finch, informs her that not only did she have her picture in the paper as champion of the regional spelling bee, but she even won a tiara. Judy is jealous. Since she is not a very talented speller, she soon realizes that she won’t be getting famous anytime soon for her spelling. She tries to think of other ways to become famous, and her failed attempts are always hilarious. In the end, Judy does not become famous, or at least not in the way she first imagined.

I enjoyed this book because it was really witty and Judy is a lovable character. The author, Megan McDonald, has a sharp sense of humor that makes this book very entertaining. For example, when Judy hears about her classmate’s success at the spelling bee spelling the word *artichoke*, Judy thinks about how she can barely spell *meatloaf*. She “felt about as famous as a pencil.” Determined to become famous, Judy tries out all sort of zany things. She carves “GW” on a chewed-up cherry pit and claims it belonged to the tree George Washington chopped down. She has her cat make toast in a talent competition for pets, but the closest she comes to fame is getting her elbow in the corner of a picture in the newspaper.

The ending of this book came as a surprise to me, because Judy does not exactly get famous. Instead she does something generous and thoughtful for someone else without getting any credit for it. She does a good deed but remains anonymous. This seems to be more satisfying to her than getting her picture in the paper for something small and silly, and it makes for a much more interesting story. This was a fun book with a helpful lesson at the end.